Conference of Editors on Rural Development Schemes

4490. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently held a Conference of Editors regarding Rural Development Schemes of Government;

(b) if so, the outcome of Conference and the issue discussed therein;

(c) whether Government propose to revamp all rural development programmes for targeting the people who are really in need and also extend the reach of the schemes to the poorest of the poor;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting organized an Editors Conference on Social Sector Issues in New Delhi from 7—9th November, 2001. The Ministry of Rural Development, alongwith other Ministries, participated in the Conference where the Editors present were briefed on Social Sector issues. The media representatives were sensitized in regard to the Programmes/Policies of the concerned Ministries, with a view to its projection, in proper perspective, so as to enhance peoples' participation in the development process. The Conference also served as a forum for discussion on the Programmes being implemented by the Ministries/Departments Concerned.

(c) to (e) The Programmes concerning the Ministry of Rural Development are reviewed on a regular basis and requisite modifications effected, as may be required, including in the Programme Guidelines, in the interest of ensuring the flow of benefits to the rural poor.